GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3248
ANSWERED ON:04.08.2017
Test and Treat Policy for HIV Patients
Goud Dr. Boora Narsaiah

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has launched 'Test and Treat Policy for HIV' for HIV patients and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Government plans to develop a National Strategic Plan for HIV for ending AIDS;

(c) if so, the details thereof along with the estimated number of persons infected with HIV and the efforts made by the Government to detect such persons and the number of ART centres providing treatment across the country; and

(d) whether the Government has revised national HIV testing guidelines to reach out to people in community to test and counsel them, if so, the details thereof?

Answer

ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND
FAMILY WELFARE
(SMT.ANUPRIYA PATEL)
(a): Yes, the Government has launched the 'Test and Treat Policy for HIV patients' in April 2017. As per this policy all people living with HIV (PLHIV) are to be treated with Antiretro Viral Therapy regardless of CD4 count, clinical stage, age or population.
(b): The National Strategic Plan for HIV/AIDS and STI 2017-24 has been approved in June 2017.
(c): The details of the strategies under National Strategic Plan for HIV/AIDS and STI 2017-24 are as follows:

(i) Accelerating HIV prevention in key population and 'at risk group'.

(ii) Expanding quality assured HIV testing with universal access to comprehensive HIV care.

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-2-

(iii) Elimination of mother to child transmission of HIV and syphilis .

(iv) Addressing the critical enablers in HIV programming

(v) Restructuring the strategic information system to be efficient and patient-centric.

As per HIV estimation 2015, India is estimated to have 21 lakhs people infected with HIV and 15.2 lakhs PLHIV know their HIV status through the strategy of scaling up of HIV counseling & testing services in 23,019 health facilities.
A total of 536 Anti-retroviral Therapy (ART) centres are providing ART treatment across the country.
(d): Yes. The National guidelines on HIV Counelling & Testing Services were revised in Dec 2016. They include the HIV screening through trained ancillary health care provider in community based setting for priority population including High Risk Groups, TB suspect & patients, STI/RTI attendees, sexual partners/ spouses of PLHIV, prison inmates, pregnant women, adolescent age group etc.
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